



Senate Bill 454

My name is Patti Kanduch, and I am the State Director for Concerned Women for America of Montana. Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization with over 500,000 members. Here in Montana we currently have over 1,250 members.

I am here today regarding S.B. 454. This bill, if passed would provide for the prosecution of people for "thought crimes."

Proponents of S.B. 454, say "hate crime" laws are needed to protect minorities from acts of violence. Homosexual activists often exaggerate the incidence of "hate crimes," which make up less than 1 percent of all crimes. Homosexual activist groups and law enforcement agencies tracking "gay-on-gay" domestic violence reported 6,523 cases in 2003, up 13 percent from 5,718 in 2002. People involved in homosexual behavior are astronomically more likely to be assaulted by another homosexual than to become the victim of a "hate crime."

"Hate crime" laws, are unnecessary. Criminal acts are already illegal. "Hate crime" laws, violate the constitutional right to equal protection; they require the courts to decide guilt based upon what someone was thinking when they committed the crime, and abridge the freedoms of speech, religion and association.

"Hate crime" laws, add penalties to a criminal sentence if the criminal is also convicted of having a "hateful" intent toward the victim based on the victim's real or perceived group identity. Crime victims who don't fit into certain categories see their assailants face lesser penalties.

All totalitarian countries employ "thought crime" laws that criminalize the conscience. Now under "hate crime" laws that include "sexual orientation," even Western nations with long traditions of freedom, such as the United States, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Sweden, are experiencing more and more challenges to basic freedoms. "Hate crime" laws, are a key part of a long-term strategy by homosexual activist to use "sexual orientation"-based policies and laws to suppress dissent, radically redefine marriage and , ultimately, to criminalize Biblical morality.

When a man loses his freedom of thought, he has no freedom left. The power to prosecute thought is a crime against humanity for it strips mankind of one of the greatest God-given gifts of all ...his thoughts and his independent mind.

We live in a world where even the Bible is being deemed "hate" literature. Christians have already been jailed for upholding traditional morality in public places, and if hate crime laws proliferate, the freedom to speak one's mind will be limited to those who

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA
OF MONTANA

celebrate and promote homosexuality.

Please vote no on Senate Bill 454.

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